
DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is a federal program that helps refugees become self-sufficient after their arrival in the U.S.

RMA is a medical assistance program for refugees who are not eligible for other Medical Assistance (MA) or MIChild programs. Eligibility for these categories must be determined prior to making an RMA eligibility determination.

DEPARTMENT POLICY

Group Composition is the determination of which individuals living together are included in the eligibility determination group (EDG). Use fiscal groups and asset groups to determine the financial eligibility of an individual who requests MA and meets all the nonfinancial eligibility factors for a MA category.

Individual family members may be eligible under different MA categories. Explore all categories for each individual who requests MA; see CHOICE OF CATEGORY in BEM 105.

Example: A refugee family, consisting of a mother and father and two children, is approved LIF for all members. After initial MA approval, the father begins employment and the income exceeds the income limit for LIF. The two children are approved for Children under 19 and the parents are approved for RMA.

Example: A refugee family, consisting of a mother and father and two children, is approved LIF for all members. The mother and father begin employment and the income exceeds the income limit for LIF and for all full-coverage MA. The children are determined ineligible for MI Child. The family of 4 are approved RMA.

DEFINITIONS

Child means an unmarried person under age 18.

Adult means a person who is married or age 18 or older.

REFUSING INFORMATION

Refusal of any information needed to determine eligibility for an individual causes ineligibility for the individual's spouse and/or child living in the home. There is no fiscal or asset group for them. Failure to cooperate with social security number, support or third party resource liability requirements (BEM 223, 255, 256 and 257) may result in MA ineligibility for an individual, but it is not considered refusing information necessary to determine eligibility for the individual.

RULES FOR GROUPS

Determine the fiscal and asset groups separately for each individual requesting MA.

When referring to the EDG, remember:

- Only individuals living with one another can be in the same EDG; see Living With in this item.
- Count a pregnant woman as at least two members. If twins are verified, count the woman as three, etc.

LIVING WITH

Living with others means sharing a home where family members usually sleep, except for temporary absences. A temporarily absent individual is considered in the home; see Temporary Absence in this item.

When a child lives with both parents who do not live with each other (for example, child lives with his mother two weeks each month and his father the other two weeks), only one parent, the primary caretaker, is in the fiscal group. Make a determination of the primary caretaker.

The primary caretaker is the parent who is primarily responsible for the child's day-to-day care and supervision in the home where the child sleeps more than half the days in a month, when averaged over a 12 month period. The 12 month period begins at the time the determination is being made. Vacations and visitation with the absent parent do not interrupt primary caretaker status. See rules in BEM 255 concerning support from the other parent.

Joint physical custody occurs when parents alternate taking responsibility for the child's day-to-day care and supervision. Joint custody may be outlined in a court order or may be an informal arrangement between parents. For RMA purposes, a child is considered to be living with only one parent in a joint custody arrangement. This parent is the primary caretaker.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE

An individual's absence is temporary for the month being tested if:

- The individual's location is known; **and**
- There is a definite plan for the individual to return home; **and**
- The individual lived with the group before the absence; **and**

Note: newborns and unborns are considered to have lived with their mothers

- The absence did not last, or is not expected to last, the entire month being tested unless the absence is for education, training, or active duty in the uniformed services of the U.S.

Exception: An absence is never temporary when:

- The month being tested is an L/H month (see BPG manual) for the absent individual; or
- The absent individual is in one of the following on the last day of a past month or on the processing date for current and future months:
 - Long-term care (LTC) facility.
 - Adult foster care facility.
 - Home for the aged.
 - Licensed child foster care home.
 - Child caring institution.

The above individuals (including spouses residing in the same facility) are never considered to be living with others. A child who has resided in a hospital for 30 or more days is not considered to be living with others and is a fiscal group of one. Certify for 12 months before redetermining eligibility for the child.

RULES FOR CHILDREN

A child can be temporarily absent from only one home. When a child spends time with two parents who do not live together, a determination of primary caretaker must be made; see Living With in this item.

Example: Amanda normally lives with mom. Dad has scheduled visitation every other weekend, two weeks at Christmas, two weeks at Easter and two weeks in the summer. Mom is the primary caretaker.

Example: Emily's mother works during the week. She drops Emily off at her grandmother's house on Sunday evening and picks her up on Friday evening. Emily's grandmother is primarily responsible for her care and supervision in the home where she sleeps more than half the days in a month when averaged over the next twelve months. Emily's grandmother is the primary caretaker.

Example: Emily's mother works during Emily's normal sleep hours. Emily is only at her grandmother's to sleep while mom works and is not there all week. Mom is the primary caretaker. Grandmother is considered to be providing child care.

FISCAL GROUP

Determine the fiscal group for each individual who is requesting MA. The fiscal group must be determined separately for each individual.

In determining an individual's eligibility, the only income that is considered is the individual's own income and the income of the following persons who live with the individual:

- The individual's spouse, **and**
- The individual's parent(s) if the individual is a child.

For example:

- A child's income cannot be used to determine a parent's eligibility.
- A stepparent's income cannot be used to determine a stepchild's eligibility.

- A grandparent's income cannot be used to determine a grandchild's eligibility.
- A parent's income is considered in determining his/her child's eligibility.
- Each spouse's income is considered in determining the other spouse's eligibility.

In addition to establishing a fiscal group for each individual requesting MA, use policy in BEM 536 to prorate an individual's income among the individual's dependents and him/herself.

Child Fiscal Group

A child's fiscal group is:

- The child, **and**
- The child's parents.

See BEM 400 to determine the asset group's countable assets.
See BEM 536 to determine budgetable income of the fiscal group.

Adult Fiscal Group

An adult's fiscal group is:

- The adult, **and**
- The adult's spouse.

See BEM 400 to determine the asset group's countable assets.
See BEM 536 to determine budgetable income of the fiscal group.

VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Pregnancy and Number of Unborns

Verify the number of unborns when:

- A pregnant woman claims to be expecting more than one child, **and**

- Multiple unborns are necessary to establish income eligibility.

Primary Caretaker

Verify the primary caretaker when questioned or disputed.

**VERIFICATION
SOURCES****Pregnancy and
Number of
Unborns**

DHS-49, Medical Examination Report, DHS-54A, Medical Needs.

Written statement from any of the following:

- M.D.
- D.O.
- Physician's assistant (PA).
- Ob-gyn nurse practitioner (NP).
- Ob-gyn clinical nurse specialist (NS).
- Certified nurse midwife.
- Registered nurse (RN).

Primary Caretaker

Court order that addresses custody or visitation.

School records indicating who enrolled the child and who is called in an emergency situation.

Medical records stating where the child lives, who is responsible for the child's medical care.

Child care records showing where the child lives and who makes and pays for the child care arrangements.

LEGAL BASE

Social Security Act, Sections 1902(a)(10),(17) MCL 400.106

45 CFR 400.90 - 104